

**That Which is Claimed**

1. A method of distributing movies to customer  
5 households comprising the steps of:

under authority of content providers who control  
the distribution rights to movies, delivering digital movie disks  
to widely geographically dispersed distribution agents;

having distribution agents produce copies of the  
10 movie disks, each copy including an identification code that  
identifies the distribution agent who made the copy;

distributing the movie disk copies from the  
distribution agents to customer households that have playback  
devices compatible with the disks;

15 permitting the customer households to view desired  
movies through their playback devices;

communicating from the customer households movie  
playback information that identifies each movie that has been  
viewed and a distribution agent who is responsible for the movie  
20 being distributed to the customer household; and

as dictated by the movie playback information,  
compensating content providers and responsible distribution  
agents.